Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 MC-02 IGA-01 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8743 INFO SECDEF WASHDC CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 15595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT EVACUATED FROM CAMBODIA

REF: BANGKOK 14530

- 1. SEVERAL STORIES ABOUT SUBJECT AIRCRAFT BEING REMOVED FROM UTAPAO ARE GOING THE ROUNDS AND GAINING CURRENCY. A RELIABLE AND FRIENDLY THAI JOURNALIST APPROACHED THE DCM ON 29 JULY ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY HIS INFORMATION THAT FORTY FORMER VIETNAMESE MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAD RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN OUT OF UTAPAO. THE LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS TO HAVE A THIR MILITARY INFORMANT AT UTAPAO WHO IS COUNTING THE REMOVAL OF AIRCRAFT FROM THE BASE. HE IS PREPARING A STORY ON THE MATTER DRAWING THE INFERENCE THAT THE U.S. IS UNILATERALLY WITHDRAWING AIRCRAFT IN VIOLATION OF THE "TEMPORARY SUSPENSION" AGREEMENT WITH THE RTG. MEANWHILE, HANOI HAS RENEWED ITS DEMANDS FOR VIETNAM MAP/MASF EQUIPMENT LOCATED IN THAILAND.
- 2. THESE STORIES WILL SURELY GAIN INCREASED CIRCULATION AND BE PUBLISHED LOCALLY AND ABROAD. THE EFFECT WILL BE TO RESTRICT THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS IN DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT AND FURTHER COMPLICATE ANY PLANS TO PLACE SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT IN RTARF INVENTORIES AND TO RETROGRADE THE REMAINING ITEMS. IT IS, THEREFORE, URGENT THAT WE RECEIVE DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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